



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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8 JANUARY 1966

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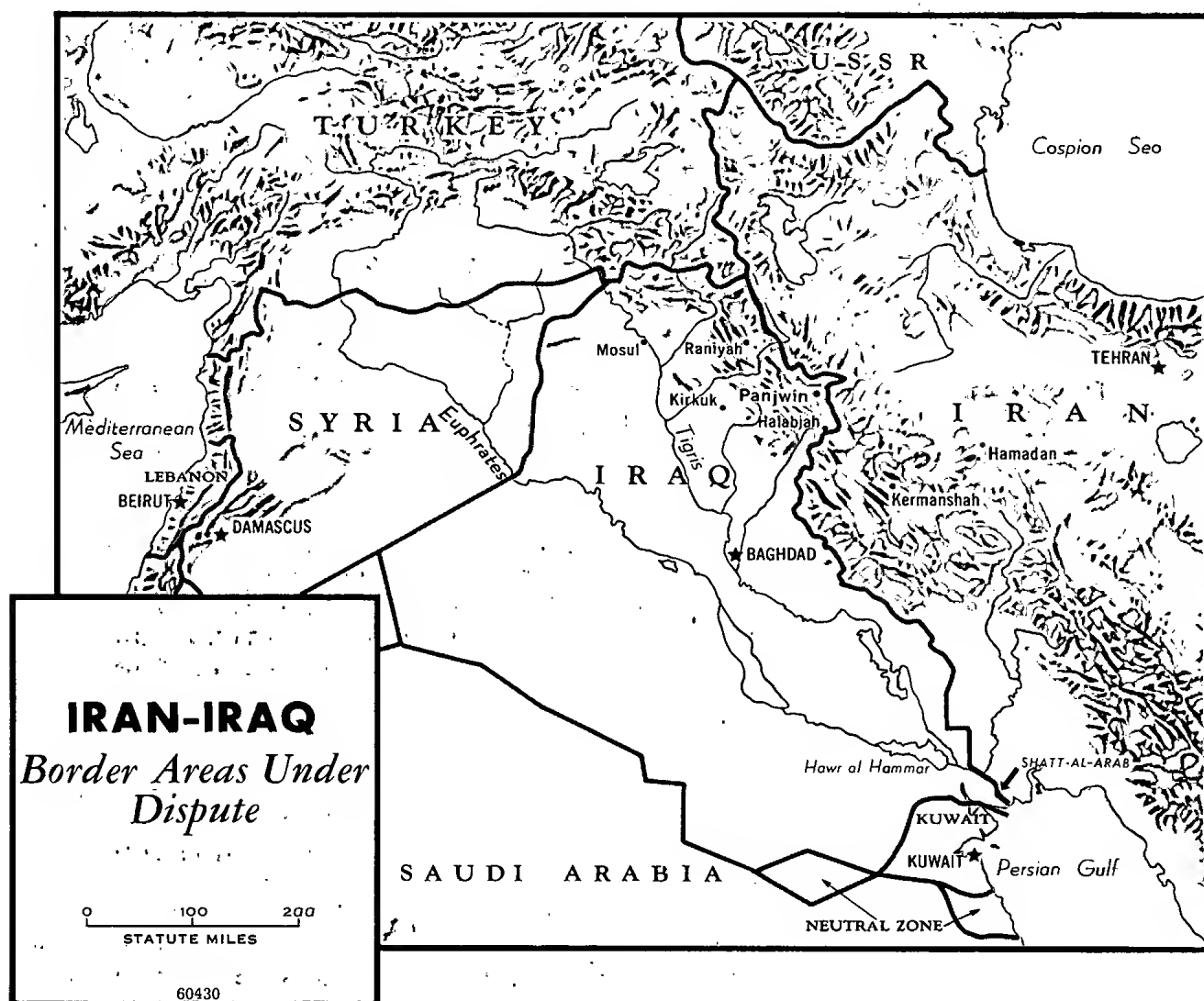
1. Vietnam

Talks started today between the Shelepin mission and Hanoi's officials. There has been no further significant reporting on the subject from Hanoi.

2. North Vietnam

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3. South Vietnam

The Viet Cong radio has added an even tougher "commentary" to its flinty statement earlier this week on the US bombing pause.

The Viet Cong now say that the US imperialists, realizing that "they can no longer endure our deadly blows, are forced to invite us to sit down to have talks with them." The Viet Cong statement rejects this possibility, saying "it is certain that we will never agree to have talks with the US imperialists."

The only way to peace, according to the Viet Cong, is for the US to withdraw all its forces and weapons, leaving the South Vietnamese to settle their "internal affairs."

4. Indonesia

Prices on virtually all consumer goods have been rising markedly in recent weeks and the cost of many food-stuffs has doubled in the Djakarta area since mid-December.

This is likely to have an increasing effect on the political power struggle. The military is clearly seeking to pin the blame on Sukarno, and he in turn will try to shift it to the military.

5. Iran-Iraq

Border tensions are worsening and more serious armed clashes may occur in the wake of the recent Iranian-supported Kurdish attack near Panjwin. Earlier this week Iraq warned Iran of "serious consequences" if Iran does not stop supporting the Kurdish tribesmen. The Shah, for his part, shows no intention of backing off.

Iraq has asked several countries, including the US, Britain, and the Soviet Union, to intervene diplomatically in Tehran in order to secure an end to the fighting.

6. Congo

The government's military capabilities in the eastern Congo will be improved by the arrival of a new batch of contract soldiers from South Africa. They replace many whose contracts had expired during the past month.

A number of rebels remain active there, but there are indications that most of their Cuban advisers have left the Congo.

7. Rhodesia

Members of a private fact-finding group of British parliamentarians now visiting Rhodesia have concluded that Prime Minister Wilson has grossly underestimated the time it will take for sanctions to bring down the Smith regime.

The Tory and Liberal members of the three-party group told the US consular officer in Salisbury that they had detected no signs of any break within Smith's political front. They believe the regime can last for six to nine more months before the sanctions bring it down.

[redacted] the Rhodesian oil refinery is scheduled to close down on 16 January for lack of crude oil. Most of the oil companies operating in South Africa have suspended petroleum shipments to Rhodesia despite Verwoerd's advice that they continue their normal flow to Rhodesia.

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8. Ceylon

Violence erupted in Colombo today when police attempted to block a crowd marching on the parliament building. This is evidently part of the leftist campaign to provoke communal violence and thus weaken the pro-Western Senanayake government. The immediate issue is controversial government legislation that would permit the use of a minority language.

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9. Dominican Republic. The stand-off continues. So far there has been little violence, but pressures are building up among extremists of both the right and the left for action which could lead to serious trouble.

Much depends on the outcome of the special meeting of the Organization of American States now under way here. The meeting was called by Garcia Godoy after General Alvim, Commander of the Inter-American Peace Force, refused to use his forces to eject the Dominican military from the government's radio station. Alvim has taken strong exception to the Bunker Committee's present support for the Garcia Godoy government.

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Extremists among the leftist forces are pressing for a general strike to begin on Monday, ostensibly to support Garcia Godoy's effort to oust the military chiefs. Leaders of most non-Communist leftist groups oppose the strike, but may not be able to hold the rank and file in line.

Although the military leaders have urged their forces to avoid any violence, they have given implicit encouragement to rightist vigilante groups which are apparently preparing to round up all "Communists."

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